

In the claims:

78. (amended) A process for making an aqueous-insoluble cation cross-linked pectin sponge or foam product to be utilized in the preparation of wound dressings or surgical products comprising the steps of:

- (I) making an aqueous solution of an aqueous-soluble pectin composition in which the pectin has a degree of esterification of less than 50% and a degree of amidation of less than 50%;
- (II) while allowing the total composition of (I) to be mixed, adding a cation metal ion salt capable of complexing the aqueous-soluble pectin to form an aqueous-insoluble pectin hydrogel;
- (III) adding to the mixture of (II), a plasticizer, a surface active agent, sodium tetraborate, ammonium hydroxide, and a suitable medicinal agent;
- (IV) while continuing to mix the entire composition (III), adding an aqueous-soluble effervescent compound capable of effervescence upon reaction with an aqueous-soluble acid;
- (V) adding to the composition with continued mixing (IV) an aqueous-soluble acid;
- (VI) pouring said composite mixture of (V) onto a fibrous cloth contained in or on a tray, which fibrous cloth will become affixed to the foamed pectin composition as a backing after the aqueous component of said composite mixture has evaporated.

79. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 wherein the effervescent compound is selected from a group consisting of the alkali metal carbonates.

80. (previously presented) The process of claim 79 wherein said effervescent compound is sodium carbonate.

81. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 wherein said effervescent compound is sodium bicarbonate.

82. (amended) The process of 78 wherein said ~~water-soluble acid~~ aqueous-soluble acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic, lactic, malic, gluconic, hydrochloric, and ascorbic acids.

83. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 in which the fibrous cloth is selected from cloths prepared from cotton, polyester, wool, nylon, rayon, or mixtures thereof.

84. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 wherein said cation metal ion is derived from salts selected from the group consisting of earth metal salts, alkali metal salts, transition metal salts, and mixtures thereof.

85. (previously presented) The process of claim 84 wherein said cation metal ion is selected from the group consisting of calcium, barium, copper, magnesium, iron, zinc, aluminum, manganese, silver, strontium, and mixtures thereof.

86. (amended claim) The process of claim 78 wherein said ~~medicament~~ medicinal agent is selected from the group consisting of collagen, maltodextrin, antibiotics, antibacterial agents, anti-inflammatory agents, ascorbic acid, amino acids, and mixtures thereof.

87. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 wherein said plasticizer is selected from a group consisting of glycerin, propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and polyethylene glycol or mixtures thereof.

88. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 wherein said surface active agent is selected from a group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleate, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block polymer, or a mixture thereof.

89. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 wherein the cation metal ion salt complexing the aqueous-soluble pectin is calcium sulphate.

90. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 where in the cation metal ion salt complexing the aqueous-soluble pectin is calcium chloride.

91. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 wherein non-pectin polysaccharides are added to the pectin composition.

92. (previously presented) The process of claim 91 wherein the non-pectin polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethyl ethyl cellulose, hyaluronic acid, carrageenan, alginic acid, sodium alginate, and gellan gum.

93. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 78.

94. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 79.

95. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 80.

96. (withdrawn) An aqueous-insoluble alginate sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 81.

97. (withdrawn) A aqueous-insoluble alginate sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 82.

98. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 83.

99. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 84.

100. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 85.

101. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 86.

102. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 87.

103. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 88.

104. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 89.

105. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 90.

106. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 91.

107. (previously presented) An aqueous-insoluble pectin sponge or foam wound dressing prepared by the method of claim 92.

108. (new) A silver pectate wound dressing affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.

109. (new) A silver pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.
110. (new) A silver pectate wound dressing.
111. (new) A silver pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing.
112. (new) A copper pectate wound dressing affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.
113. (new) A copper pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.
114. (new) A copper pectate wound dressing.
115. (new) A copper pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing.
116. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate wound dressing affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.
117. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.
118. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate wound dressing.
119. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing.
120. (new) A silver pectate wound dressing containing a medicament affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.
121. (new) A silver pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing containing a medicament affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.
122. (new) A silver pectate wound dressing containing a medicament.
123. (new) A silver pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing containing a medicament.

124. (new) A copper pectate wound dressing containing a medicament affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.

125. (new) A copper pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing containing a medicament affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.

126. (new) A copper pectate wound dressing containing a medicament.

127. (new) A copper pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing containing a medicament.

128. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate wound dressing containing a medicament affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.

128. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing containing a medicament affixed to a fibrous cloth backing.

129. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate wound dressing containing a medicament.

130. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate-calcium pectate wound dressing containing a medicament.

131. (new) A silver pectate moiety.

132. (new) A silver pectate-calcium pectate moiety.

133. (new) A copper pectate moiety.

134. (new) A copper pectate-calcium pectate moiety.

135. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate moiety.

136. (new) An iron (Fe^{++} or Fe^{+++}) pectate-calcium pectate moiety.